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SECURITY INFORMATION  
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
INFORMATION FROM  
FOREIGN DOCUMENTS OR RADIO BROADCASTS CD NO. --

COUNTRY USSR  
SUBJECT Economic - Technological; instruments  
HOW PUBLISHED Daily newspapers  
WHERE PUBLISHED USSR  
DATE PUBLISHED 26 Mar, 4 Jul 1951  
LANGUAGE Russian

DATE OF INFORMATION 1951  
DATE DIST. 8 Feb 1952  
NO. OF PAGES 3  
SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

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LENINGRAD, MOSCOW INSTRUMENT PLANTS  
FALL BELOW PLAN

POOR TECHNOLOGY, PLANNING MAIN CAUSES OF BELOW-PAR PERFORMANCE -- Leningradskaya Pravda, 26 Mar 51

Scientific research institutes, higher educational institutions, and plant laboratories are increasing their demands for precision weighing devices. This calls for rapid establishment of large-scale production of these devices at the Leningrad Gosmetr Plant. The task will be a big one for the plant, since even its present production is below plan, with the first-quarter quota being fulfilled only 86 percent, and no improvement in either May or April.

The plant director cites so-called external causes for the poor record. He points out the supply situation as the chief of these. The plant receives only a small amount of brass, and contracting plants are not supplying all the products included in the range of the plan, and are failing to adhere to schedule in delivery of castings.

There is no doubt that these factors have their adverse effects on the over-all economic indexes of the plant; but the true causes of the unsatisfactory performance are to be found in poor planning and indifference to advanced technological methods. During the first two thirds of the month production merely sables along, then spurts wildly in the last third, with economy and care being sacrificed for speed.

As for the plant Supply Division, it provides brass stock to the shops in all but the correct sizes, so that, for example, 25-millimeter stock is used instead of 18-millimeter, bringing about considerable losses in chips.

Makeshift methods are applied at every step of the production process. Advanced industrial methods such as anode-mechanical cutting, vortical cutting, thread rolling, high-frequency tempering, and electric-spark hardening -- all established almost everywhere throughout Leningrad industry -- are ignored at the Leningrad Gosmetr Plant.

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This technological backwardness cannot be attributed solely to a lack of equipment. A unit for electric-spark tool hardening has been lying idle in the plant's repair shop for over a year. A thread rolling machine, and some automatic grooving machines in machine shop No 1 are not being used.

The plant's die-casting machine is running far below its capacity, putting in at the most one shift a day. New molds should be made to increase the range of production.

One economy measure which the plant should take is the substitution of cheaper materials for those in critical demand. Dozens of parts for weighing mechanisms, such as handles, gates, and bases, should be made of plastic instead of brass.

The plant's chief engineer, I. I. Makarov, is more than a little to blame for the technological deficiencies of the plant. It is up to him, along with the director and plant party committee, to improve the existing situation.

REGULAR OUTPUT SUFFERS FROM DEMANDS OF NEW PRODUCTION -- Moskovskaya Pravda,  
4 Jul 51

The Moscow Manometer Plant, long one of the capital's leading enterprises, whose manometers are found on heavy steam boilers, locomobiles, and gas holders, has been running lower in gross production than in commodity production during the last 6 months. Actually, the increased commodity production during this period represented the completion of unfinished production, consisting of parts and materials produced before the beginning of the year.

Labor productivity has been low, the production per worker going 14-17 percent below the quota. This is not the fault of the workers, however, since the average norm fulfillment throughout the plant is exceeding 160 percent. The real cause is frequent work stoppage.

The plant director, Gorin, attributes the low productivity to insufficient supply of certain materials, mentioning in particular the late shipments of rods and pipes. It is true that supply shortcomings have held back production somewhat, but of all unplanned stoppages, those caused by a shortage of materials amounted to only 4 percent in January, and 7 percent in May.

Double and triple losses have resulted from internal causes, especially from poor planning of the work load for the machine tools, and from insufficient supply of tools to the machine operators from the plant tool shop. Because of these circumstances, production creeps during the first part of the month, and rushes headlong in the last part. In March, April, and May, for example, the plant put out 7-9 percent of its commodity production during the first 10 days of each month, 15-27 percent in the next 10 days, and the rest of the month's production in the last 10 days.

Lur'ye, chief of the Economic Planning Division, attributes the plant's poor showing to a shortage of 50 workers. This reason is hardly valid, however, in view of the fact that during March 5,000 hours were lost in work stoppage, which means that the equivalent of 25 men were idle during the entire month.

In the main, the plant's shortcomings stem from the failure of the directors, and especially Chief Engineer Ukladov, to pay sufficient attention to current production needs.

This year, the plant was to establish production of a number of new items. Great difficulty is being met in carrying out this project, since regular production must also increase in accordance with the plan. Some of the new items

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are not even in the design stage yet, and the directors are unfortunately concentrating almost all of their efforts on the new production, letting the day-to-day work take care of its-lf. Thus, a number of products are being turned out without benefit of planning. Ukladov says that the plant is not up to the tasks before it, arguing that the range of products called for is too great. The Main Administration of Laboratory Instruments would do well to take note of this.

Nearly 50 percent of the plant's products should be put into series production. Many are of completely original design, and extremely complex. The plant thus has to make an all-out effort, preparing for the production of several thousand parts, attachments, and cutting and measuring instruments. Yet, in the plant Technical Division there are only four qualified technologists. It is hard to believe that Kashirin, director of the main administration, can deem these four technologists adequate for the extensive and complex needs of the Manometer Plant.

In the face of all this, the party bureau of the plant fails to put up inspirational posters or current reports of socialist competition.

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